

# Editorial: Keep Volinsky on the Executive Council

Saturday, November 03, 2018

For a lot of voters, the Executive Council is one of the more mysterious institutions of state government. Each of the five members of the council is a watchdog for how the business of the state is conducted, and in that role they approve or reject contracts over \$25,000, decide on the appointments of commissioners and judges, and manage the state's 10-year Highway Plan, for example.

Integrity, intellectual curiosity and attention to detail – especially details buried deep in mind-numbing contracts and annual reports – are among the traits that determine whether someone is a good executive councilor or just a body in a seat.

Andru Volinsky isn't merely a good executive councilor; he is exactly what an executive councilor should be. Voters in District 2, which stretches across the state and includes Concord and neighboring towns to the north and west of the city, are indeed fortunate to have his expertise, intellect and energy in the State House. With his legal background and eagle eye, he has saved the people of New Hampshire money.

On more than one occasion, Volinsky read so deeply into contracts and annual reports that he was able to flag issues that other councilors never saw. By doing so, he changed the outcome of votes. He has also put an emphasis on economic justice by asking state vendors to disclose how much they pay their lowest-paid employees, and not all vendors have been willing to disclose the information. He reported that, too.

This relentless push for transparency is another trait of a good executive councilor and one that Volinsky comes by naturally.

Volinsky is being challenged by Jim Beard, a Lempster Republican with a background in aviation. Beard is a genial candidate with a strong desire to serve

in government, but he has failed to articulate a full understanding of what the Executive Council does and how he would serve District 2 if elected.

Voters should check the box for Volinsky with confidence. They just couldn't ask for a better representative on the Executive Council.